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COUNTRY Hungary

DATE DISTR. 23 Nov. 1953

SUBJECT 1. Cost of Living in Budapest
2. Air Raid Instructions

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIRED

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION Prior to August 1953

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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Cost of Living in BudapestWages and Salaries

1. Substantially, wages and salaries in Budapest fell into two main groups. The first group included monthly incomes of 600-2,000 forints (brutto). The majority of workers and intellectuals were paid wages or salaries within this range, i.e., workers earned about 600-1,500 forints and intellectuals earned 700-2,000 forints monthly. The second group included monthly incomes of 1,500-5,000 forints (brutto). High Party officials, officers of the State Security Authority (Allamvedelmi Hatosag -- AVH), officers of the armed forces, managers and overseers of State Enterprises, foremen, Stakhanovites and other "catchpoles" of the Communist regime, received these higher salaries. I cannot estimate how much was deducted for taxes, state loans, Party and trade union fees, Communist charity drives, etc.

Cost of Food

2. Superficially, the food supply in Hungary was adequate. The prices of food compared with the purchasing value of the forint were very high. I estimate that an average of 1,000 forints monthly had to be spent by one person for food to get the minimum of calories.

Cost of Housing

3. There were three types of housing in Budapest: tenements, sub-lets, and the multiple rental system (tarsberlet). The rents ranged from 150 to 600 forints per month with 250 forints the average monthly rent paid by Budapest citizens.

Cost of City Transportation

4. Normal use of the city streetcar and bus lines cost an average of 80 forints monthly per person. Workers, officials, and students had the right to buy season passes at reduced prices and the use of public transportation facilities cost them about 20 forints monthly.

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Cost of Public Utilities

5. Budapest citizens paid about 30 forints monthly for electricity, 30 forints for gas, 70 forints for fuel, or a total of 130 forints monthly for public utilities.

Cost of Clothing

6. Items of men's clothing cost the following prices:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price Range</u>	<u>Average Price</u>
Shirts	70-250 forints	110 forints
Pants	30- 70 "	40 "
Socks	10- 60 "	20 "
Ties	30-100 "	40 "
Shoes	300-700 "	450 "
Suits, custom made, medium quality		1,200 "
Topcoats	600-2,500 "	1,200 "
Overcoats.	1,500-3,000 "	2,000 "

The prices of items of ladies' clothing were approximately one-third less than the men's. The best quality of clothing items offered by the Budapest shops were coarse compared to Western standards.

Cost of Furniture

7. The average prices of items of medium quality furniture were as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price Range</u>
Beds, Couches, etc.	3,000-15,000 forints each
Straight chairs	200- 500 " "
Upholstered chairs	1,000- 3,000 " "
Wardrobes with partitions	8,000-20,000 " "
Dining tables	500- 5,000 " "

Air-raid Instructions

8. During the first months of 1952 the District Councils of Budapest ordered their subordinates to give air-raid instruction to the city's population. Courses were organized for the inhabitants of each block and adult citizens were obliged to participate. People staying away from the air-raid lectures could be fined up to 100 forints. Subjects of instruction in the air-raid courses were chosen on the basis of the evaluation of World War II experiences. The main subjects discussed included:
- The air-raid (description of planes, bombs dropped and damaged caused);
 - Air-raid precautions;
 - Fire extinguishing and razing the damaged buildings;
 - Behavior during air-raids;
 - First-aid instructions.
9. At the same time, the Councils ordered the setting up of air-raid groups (legoltalmi osztatok) in each building and the appointment of trustees (feleloes) to carry out the air-raid precautions.

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